[Rao Bahadur A. Rengaswamy Aiyar.]

26. *Uplift of Backward Communities.*—It has been decided to make arrangements for carrying on steady, systematic and intensive work for the amelioration and uplift of the Backward Communities in the State. The work has been entrusted to a Special Officer styled the Protector of Backward Communities. The work will be carried on in three centres, one each in the North, Central and South Travancore selected with due regard to the distribution of the population of the Backward Communities, their economic condition and the urgency of their needs. House sites for 50 families in each of the centres will be provided by the acquisition of suitable lands (if suitable Government lands are not available) wherein pathways, wells and burial grounds will also be provided. For putting up houses etc., money will be advanced after taking agreements from the people concerned with due provision for sureties. Whenever possible, the assistance of non-official organisattons such as the Harijan Sevak Sangh, the Kerala Hindu Mission and the Y. M. C. A. will be invoked for carrying out the work. An experimental rural colony for Backward Communities at Enadimangalam in the Kunnathur Taluk, where an extensive area of arable land is said to be available, will also be established. The normal activities of the Department for the protection of Backward Communities which are in various stages of completion in the several parts of the State will also be continued. A provision of Rs 20,000 for the above purposes has been made in the budget for next year under a new major head "24—Uplift of Backward Communities." It may be mentioned that this provision is in addition to the usual provision in the budget under Education, Industries, etc., for the benefit of the Backward Communities which amounts to about Rs ·63 of a lakh.

27. *Medical.*—In addition to the provision for the appointment of additional staff required in the General Hospital, Trivandrum, for the Radiological and Radium Wards etc., under construction, for the Women and Children's Hospital, the Kottayam District Hospital, the General Medical Stores and additional compounders in some of the heavily worked hospitals, provision has also been made for running an Itinerant dispensary for the treatment of yaws, a dangerous infectious disease prevailing in most of the coastal villages in Central Travancore. It is also proposed to supply the Women and Children's Hospital with additional iron cots and shadowless operation lamp. The existing temporary staff in the General Hospital, the Leper

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Colony, Noornad, the staff for leprosy survey work and the temporary dispensary at Vidurai are also proposed to be continued.

28. *Public Health.*—It is proposed to reorganise the department by dividing the State into two districts and placing each under a separate District Health Officer. Provision has also been made for the continuance of the schemes of intensive health works in 5 selected taluks which are easily affected by cholera, for the Filariasis control measures in the Shertallai Taluk, and for the appointment of 3 Public Health Nurses in three Revenue Divisions with 5 midwives for work relating to Maternity and Child Welfare and for the continuance of anti-malaria and plague preventive measures. The existing scheme of medical inspection of school children is also proposed to be continued and a provision of Rs 10,000 is made for the purpose in the Education budget.

In this connection, I may point out that the total grant for Medical and Public Health for the next year amounts to Rs 13·35 lakhs as against Rs 12·77 lakhs for the current year.

29. *Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments.*—With a view to make the Economic Development Board a really representative organisation of the economic interests in the State, enabling it to function properly and to suggest well conceived schemes of economic planning spread over a few years, Government sanctioned the reconstitution of the Board with 25 members, (10 officials and 15 non-officials) with effect from 1st Chingom 1113. One of the duties of the Board will be the organisation of Rural Reconstruction work in selected areas preferably through non-official agencies. The necessary provision has been made in the budget for the next year.

A provision of Rs 7,340 has also been made for the preparation and printing of a descriptive catalogue of the manuscripts in the Palace Granthapura and the Curator's Office, in connection with the All India Oriental Conference.

30. *Public Works.*—The allotment for ordinary Public Works expenditure for the next year including establishment charges and tools and plant is Rs 32·26 lakhs as against the current year's revised estimate of Rs 31·76 lakhs, exclusive of the provision for the Town Planning Scheme and the Council Chamber. A sum of Rs 3,500 for the investigation of a scheme for providing tube wells for the supply of drinking water in the Kalkulam and Vilavancode Taluks is included under Public Works. Full details of the works in progress and new works are given in Appendix B to the budget estimates.

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